

## II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting, in an electronic product catalog system  $\{1\}$ , a question to be presented to a user of the system  $\{1\}$  to assist identification of a suitable product from a set of potentially suitable products according to the user's needs, the question being selected from a group of questions stored in said system  $\{1\}$ , which method comprises:

processing product data stored in said system  $\{1\}$ ;  $r_i$

defining features of products in said set and product scores associated with respective products in said set, and rule data stored in said system  $\{1\}$ ;  $r_i$

defining rules relating answers associated with said questions to product feature constraints, to calculate question scores ( $Q_s$ ) for respective said questions such that the question score ( $Q_s$ ) for each question is dependent on one of:

- (a) for each rule relating to any answer associated with that question, the product scores of any products excluded from said set if said rule relating to an answer associated with that question is effective;  $r_i$  and
- (b) for each rule relating to any answer associated with that question, the product scores of any products retained in said set if said rule relating to an answer associated with that question is effective; and

A.F.  
Amendment  
is NOT approved  
for entry.  
11/22/04